

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 201630Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4333

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, UK

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON UK REFERENDUM

REF: LONDON 4010

1. ON MAY 20 CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER,
I ASKED THORN WHETHER HE BELIEVED THAT THE UK WOULD VOTE
TO REMAIN IN THE EC. THORN REPLIED THAT IN PRIVATE WILSON
WAS CONFIDENT IN DUBLIN THAT THE BRITISH ELECTORATE WOULD
VOTE TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. NEVERTHELESS, WILSON
WAS WORRIED ABOUT A HIGH RATE OF ABSTENTIONS, WHICH WOULD
FAVOR THE BETTER ORGANIZED ANTI-MARKET MINORITY.

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THE DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OBTAINED BY POMPIDOU IN THE

FRENCH REFERENDUM ON INCREASING THE EC MEMBERSHIP FROM SIX TO NINE ALSO ARE BEGINNING TO HAUNT WILSON.

2. I THEN ASKED THORN HOW HE WOULD VIEW A BRITISH BID TO NEGOTIATE A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC IF THE UK SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMUNITY. THORN SAID THAT HE WOULD AGREE TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN ACCORD, BUT WAS PERSONALLY SKEPTICAL THAT A COMPREHENSIVE UK/EC TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED SOON AFTER UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EC. BRITAIN'S PARTNERS WOULD PROBABLY WANT A REPRIEVE BEFORE HAVING TO FACE MORE LONG MONTHS OF HAGGLING WITH HMG. SIMILARLY, THE EC WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ACCORD "SPECIAL TREATMENT" TO THE UK IN ANY SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. THORN DID NOT RULE OUT AN EVENTUAL UK/EC TRADE ACCORD, BUT HE INSISTED THAT THE EC WOULD HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO TRY TO ASSIST THE BRITISH IN THE NEAR FUTURE IF THE UK PULLS OUT OF THE EC.FARKAS

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